

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-75 (cancelled)

76. (previously presented) A method for modulating the immune response of a subject, the method comprises administering to said subject a sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate together with a biologically active molecule, the biologically active molecule being effective to modulate said immune response.

77. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate comprises a sphingoid backbone carrying, via a carbamoyl bond at least one polyalkylamine chain.

78. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said modulation includes stimulation or enhancement of the immune response.

79. (previously presented) The method of any one of Claims 76, wherein said biologically active molecule is associated with said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate.

80. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said biologically active molecule has, at a physiological pH, a net negative dipole moment, a net negative charge or contains at least one region having a net negative charge.

81. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said biologically active molecule is an immunomodulator selected from a nucleic acid molecule, an amino acid molecule or a low molecular weight compound.

82. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said biologically active molecule is selected from an antigenic protein, antigenic peptide, antigenic polypeptide, or a carbohydrate.

83. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is an oligodeoxynucleotides (ODN).

84. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, further comprising administering to said subject an immunostimulating agent.

85. (previously presented) The method of Claim 84, wherein said immunostimulating agent is administered concomitant with, or within a time interval before after administration of said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate.

86. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate forms a lipid assembly.

87. (previously presented) The method of Claim 86, wherein said lipid assembly comprises vesicles or micelles or combination of same.

88. (previously presented) The method of Claim 87, wherein said biologically active molecule is associated with said lipid assembly.

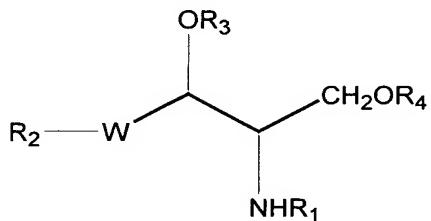
89. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein the sphingoid is selected from ceramide, dihydroceramide, phytoceramide, dihydroytoceramide, ceramine, dihydroceramine, phytoceramine, dihydroytoceramine.

90. (previously presented) The method of Claim 89, wherein said sphingoid is ceramide.

91. (previously presented) The method of Claim 90, wherein said polyalkylamine is selected from spermine, spermidine, a polyamine analog or a combination of same thereof.

92. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate is N-palmitoyl D-erythro sphingosyl carbamoyl-spermine (CCS).

93. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate has the following formula (I):



wherein

R₁ represents a hydrogen, a branched or linear alkyl, aryl, alkylamine, or a group -C(O)R₅;

R₂ and R₅ represent, independently, a branched or linear C₁₀-C₂₄ alkyl, alkenyl or polyenyl groups;

R₃ and **R₄** are independently a group -C(O)-NR₆R₇, **R₆** and **R₇** being the same or different for R₃ and R₄ and represent, independently, a hydrogen, or a saturated or unsaturated branched or linear polyalkylamine, wherein one or more amine units in said polyalkylamine may be a quaternary ammonium; or **R₃** is a hydrogen; or

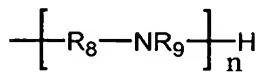
R₃ and **R₄** form together with the oxygen atoms to which they are bound a heterocyclic ring comprising -C(O)-NR₉-[R₈-NR₉]_m-C(O)-, **R₈** represents a saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₄ alkyl and **R₉** represents a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine of the formula -[R₈-NR₉]_n-, wherein said R₉ or each alkylamine unit R₈NR₉ may be the same or different in said polyalkylamine; and
n and **m**, represent independently an integer from 1 to 10;
W represents a group selected from -CH=CH-, -CH₂-CH(OH)- or -CH₂-CH₂-.

94. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein R₁ represents a -C(O)R₅ group, R₅ being as defined.

95. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein said R₂ and R₅ represent, independently, a linear or branched C₁₂-C₁₈ alkyl or alkenyl groups.

96. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein W represents -CH=CH-.

97. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein **R**₁ represents a -C(O)R₅ group; R₅ represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; W represents -CH=CH-; R₂ represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; R₃ and R₄ represent, independently, a group C(O)-NR₆R₇, and R₃ may also represent a hydrogen, wherein R₆ and R₇ represent, independently, a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine having the general formula (II):



wherein

R₈ represent a C₁-C₄ alkyl;

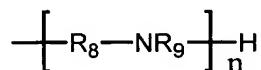
R₉ represents a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine branch of formula (II), said R₈ and R₉ may be the same or different for each alkylamine unit, -R₈NR₉-, in the polyalkylamine of formula (II); and

n represents an integer from 3 to 6.

98. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein R₃ is a hydrogen atom.

99. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein both R₃ and R₄ represent the same or a different polyalkylamine.

100. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein **R₁** represents a -C(O)R₅ group; R₅ represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; W represents -CH=CH-; R₂ represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; R₃ and R₄ represent independently a group C(O)-NR₆R₇, wherein R₆ and R₇ represent, independently, an alkylamine or a polyalkylamine having the general formula (II):



wherein

R₈ represent a C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R₉ represents a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine branch of formula (II), said R₈ and R₉ may be the same or different for each alkylamine unit, -R₈NR₉-, in the polyalkylamine of formula (II); and

n represents an integer from 3 to 6.

101. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein R₁ represents a C(O)R₅ group; R₅ represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; W represents -CH=CH-; R₂ represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; R₃ and R₄ form together with the oxygen atoms to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring comprising -C(O)-[NH-R₈]_n-NH-C(O)-, wherein

R₈ represents a C₁-C₄ alkyl, wherein for each alkylamine unit having the formula -NH-R₈-, said R₈ may be the same or different; and n represents an integer from 3 to 6.

102. (previously presented) The method of Claim 93, wherein said R₈ is a C₃-C₄ alkyl.

103. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein said biologically active material is derived from influenza virus or an analog of a molecule derived from influenza virus.

104. (previously presented) The method of Claim 103, wherein said biologically active material is a combination of hemagglutinin and neuraminidase (HN).

105. (previously presented) The method of Claim 76, comprising intranasal or intramuscular administration of said conjugate.

106. (previously presented) The method of Claim 92, comprising intranasal or intramuscular administration of said N-palmitoyl D-erythro sphingosyl carbamoyl-spermine together with said biologically active molecule.

107. (previously presented) A method for stimulating or enhancing the immune response of a subject to influenza virus, the method comprises providing said subject with N-palmitoyl D-erythro sphingosyl carbamoyl-spermine (CCS) together with an influenza antigen.

108. (previously presented) A vaccine comprising sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate and an amount of a biologically active molecule, the amount of said biologically active molecule being effective to modulate the immune response of a subject.

109. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 108, wherein said biologically active molecule is effective to stimulate or enhance the immune response of said subject.

110. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 109, further comprising an immunostimulating agent.

111. (previously presented) The vaccine of claim 108, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate comprises a sphingoid backbone carrying, via a carbamoyl bond at least one polyalkylamine chain.

112. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 111, wherein said sphingoid backbone is selected from ceramide, dihydroceramide, phytoceramide, dihydrophytoceramide, ceramine, dihydroceramine, phytoceramine, dihydrophytoceramine.

113. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 112, wherein said sphingoid is ceramide.

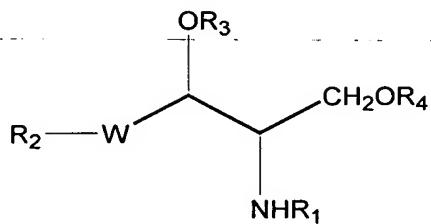
114. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 108, wherein said polyalkylamine chain is selected from spermine, spermidine or a polyalkylamine analog of spermine or spermidine.

115. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 108, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate is N-palmitoyl D-erythro sphingosyl carbamoyl-spermine (CCS).

116. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 115, wherein said biologically active molecule is a molecule derived from influenza virus or is an analog of a molecule derived from influenza virus.

117. (canceled)

118. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 33, wherein said sphingoid-polyalkylamine conjugate has the following formula (I):



wherein

R₁ represents a hydrogen, a branched or linear alkyl, aryl, alkylamine, or a group -C(O)R₅;

R₂ and R₅ represent, independently, a branched or linear C₁₀-C₂₄ alkyl, alkenyl or polyenyl groups;

R₃ and R₄ are independently a group -C(O)-NR₆R₇, R₆ and R₇ being the same or different for R₃ and R₄ and represent, independently, a hydrogen, or a saturated or unsaturated branched or linear polyalkylamine, wherein one or more amine units in said polyalkylamine may be a quaternary ammonium; or R₃ is a hydrogen; or

R₃ and R₄ form together with the oxygen atoms to which they are bound a heterocyclic ring comprising -C(O)-NR₉-[R₈-NR₉]_m-C(O)-, R₈ represents a saturated or unsaturated C₁-C₄ alkyl and R₉ represents a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine of the formula -[R₈-

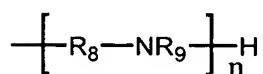
$\text{NR}_9]_n-$, wherein said R_9 or each alkylamine unit $R_8\text{NR}_9$ may be the same or different in said polyalkylamine; and
 n and m , represent independently an integer from 1 to 10;
 W represents a group selected from $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$ or $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$.

119. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118,
wherein R_1 represents a $-\text{C}(\text{O})R_5$ group, R_5 being as defined.

120. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118,
wherein said R_2 and R_5 represent, independently, a linear or branched $C_{12}-C_{18}$ alkyl or alkenyl groups.

121. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118,
wherein W represents $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$.

122. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118,
wherein \mathbf{R}_1 represents a $-\text{C}(\text{O})R_5$ group; \mathbf{R}_5 represents a $C_{12}-C_{18}$ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; W represents $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$; \mathbf{R}_2 represents a $C_{12}-C_{18}$ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; \mathbf{R}_3 and \mathbf{R}_4 represent, independently, a group $\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{NR}_6\text{R}_7$, and \mathbf{R}_3 may also represent a hydrogen, wherein \mathbf{R}_6 and \mathbf{R}_7 represent, independently, a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine having the general formula (II):



wherein

R₈ represent a C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R₉ represents a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine branch of formula (II), said **R₈** and **R₉** may be the same or different for each alkylamine unit, -R₈NR₉-, in the polyalkylamine of formula (II);

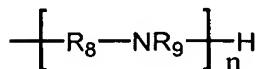
and

n represents an integer from 3 to 6.

123. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118, wherein R₃ is a hydrogen atom.

124. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118, wherein both R₃ and R₄ represent the same or a different polyalkylamine.

125. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118, wherein **R₁** represents a -C(O)R₅ group; **R₅** represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; **W** represents -CH=CH-; **R₂** represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; **R₃** and **R₄** represent independently a group C(O)-NR₆R₇, wherein **R₆** and **R₇** represent, independently, an alkylamine or a polyalkylamine having the general formula (II):



wherein

R₈ represent a C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R₉ represents a hydrogen or a polyalkylamine branch of formula (II), said R₈ and R₉ may be the same or different for each alkylamine unit, -R₈NR₉-, in the polyalkylamine of formula (II); and

n represents an integer from 3 to 6.

126. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118, wherein **R₁** represents a C(O)R₅ group; **R₅** represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; **W** represents -CH=CH-; **R₂** represents a C₁₂-C₁₈ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl; **R₃** and **R₄** form together with the oxygen atoms to which they are bonded a heterocyclic ring comprising -C(O)-[NH-R₈]_n-NH-C(O)-, wherein

R₈ represents a C₁-C₄ alkyl, wherein for each alkylamine unit having the formula -NH-R₈-, said R₈ may be the same or different; and **n** represents an integer from 3 to 6.

127. (previously presented) The vaccine of Claim 118, wherein said R₈ is a C₃-C₄ alkyl.

128-134. (canceled)